MARVEL REMEMBERS

JOHN ROMITA

MARVEL 7

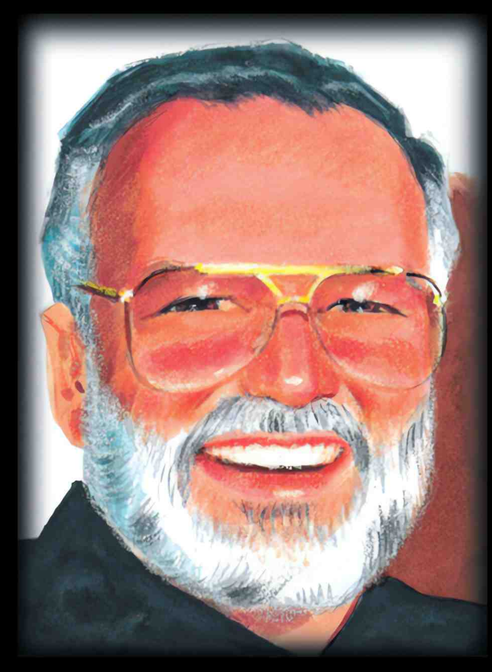
RED GOBLIN

PAKNADEL
BAZALDUA
PIMENTEL
CURIEL
PROTOBUNKER

Lee InHyuk

John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

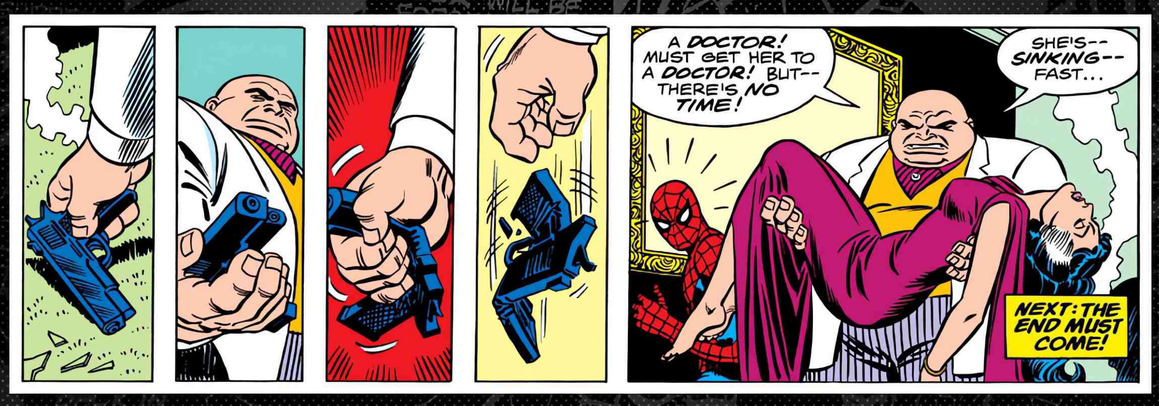
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

NORMIE OSBORN is the son of Harry Osborn and Liz Allan and the grandson of Norman Osborn, A.K.A. the GREEN GOBLIN--the former archnemesis of SPIDER-MAN. The Osborn family's entanglement with the wall-crawler recently cost Harry his life and Normie his father.

Normie's involvement in super-powered intrigue has grown even more complicated after Dylan Brock, A.K.A. VENOM, granted him a fledgling symbiote of his own named RASCAL. While Normie is wary of the dangers of bonding with a symbiote, he and Rascal have gotten progressively closer the more Normie uses Rascal's abilities to engage in super-heroics--like saving Normie's grandfather from the GOBLIN NATION.

But the Goblin Nation's power is rising again thanks to their new GOBLIN KING--PHIL URICH--whose corpse was resurrected by the regenerative properties of the Goblin Formula. While his right hand, GOBLIN KNIGHT, captured Normie's friend, TIM ANDERS, to draw Rascal out, Urich secretly hired the mercenary CROSSBONES to eliminate his new lieutenant turned rival. But during Tim's kidnapping, Rascal went berserk! If Normie can't rein it back in, there's no telling the violence and destruction it could unleash!

RED GOBLIN

WRITER: ALEX PAKNADEL

ARTISTS: JAN BAZALDUA WITH RAFAEL PIMENTEL

COLOR ARTISTS: DAVID CURIEL WITH PROTOBUNKER'S DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA

LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER ARTIST: INHYUK LEE

SENIOR DESIGNER: ADAM DEL RE

ASSISTANT EDITOR: LINDSEY COHICK

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: TOM GRONEMAN

EDITOR: DEVIN LEWIS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: C.B. CEBULSKI

LOS ANGELES. YEARS AGO.

"THE LONERS" SUPERHUMAN SUPPORT GROUP.

HI, I'M, *UH*... I'M CHRIS POWELL. I KNOW I DON'T USUALLY TALK MUCH, BUT I JUST WANNA BE UP FRONT WITH YOU GUYS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.

UH, SO I GOT TURNED AROUND LOOKING FOR THIS *OKONOMIYAKI* JOINT IN LITTLE TOKYO, RIGHT?

BUT I'M A ***NEW YORKER***, SO, OF COURSE, I'D RATHER DRIVE OFF SANTA MONICA PIER THAN ***ASK FOR DIRECTIONS...***

SKREEEEEE!

"AFTER DRIVING AROUND IN CIRCLES FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I GAVE UP AND HEADED SOUTH DOWN SAN PEDRO, BUT WHEN I HIT FIFTH, I... I HAD TO STOP THE CAR.

"THESE CREEPS WERE SPRAYING ***LIGHTER FUEL*** ALL OVER HOMELESS FOLKS' TENTS AND JUST...***LAUGHING.***

"ONE OF 'EM HAD A ***BOOK OF MATCHES*** OPEN, SO I KNEW ***EXACTLY*** WHAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO DO, AND I...

"...I ***REACTED.***"

"YOU ***REACTED.***"

"YEAH, I...FELL OFF THE WAGON OR WHATEVER.

"I BECAME ***DARKHAWK.***"

GET OUT.
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME. OUT.
PHIL...
Personalizing your problem is the first step in confronting it
NO, MICKEY! WE HAVE ONE RULE IN THIS GROUP. ONE!
NO POWERS. EVER!
CHRIS SLIPPED, PHIL. HE'S HUMAN. IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL.
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO DO THE SAME THING?
SURE. SURE, I WOULD. BUT WHERE DOES IT END?
ONE OF US SLIPS, THEN ANOTHER, AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, WE'RE DISCUSSING COSTUMES AND A #$%& TEAM NAME!
SO IF CHRIS ISN'T LEAVING? COOL.
I'LL SHOW MYSELF OUT.
PHIL?
PHIL!
UHHH, DOES THIS MEAN WE ALL GET TO GO HOME?

WHAT THE #$%& WAS THAT?

I KNOW. I OVERREACTED.

GEE, YA THINK?!

PHIL, WE STARTED THIS GROUP TO GIVE GIFTED KIDS OTHER OPTIONS BESIDES BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF BAD GUYS. WE CAN'T JUST ***REJECT*** THEM WHEN THEY RELAPSE.

TRINITY CHURCH
LONERS MEETING 9:30
CHURCH BASEMENT

MICKEY, SOME DAYS, I WANT TO BE THE ***GREEN GOBLIN*** AGAIN SO BADLY I WANNA CLIMB OUT OF MY OWN SKIN. THAT'S THE TRUTH.

I MOVED ***COASTS*** TO GET AWAY FROM THAT FEELING, AND I WANT TO HELP THESE KIDS MAKE A FRESH START TOO.

BUT MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO BE PART OF SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME--SOMETHING THAT ISN'T PART OF ***SOMEONE ELSE'S*** DAMN ***LEGACY.***

I WANT...

...I WANT SOMETHING THAT'S ***MINE.***

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.

Personalizing your problem is the first step in confronting it

MINE AND MINE ***ALONE.***

THIS IS WHAT BLOWING IT LOOKS LIKE, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING.

BLAM BLAM

MY FRIEND DYLAN...HE TRUSTED ME WITH MY VERY OWN SYMBIOTE--RASCAL-- AND RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TURNING THE UPPER WEST SIDE INTO A WAR ZONE.

RASCAL'S ALWAYS BEEN A HANDFUL, BUT EVER SINCE WE TRIED TO ABSORB A PIECE OF CLETUS KASADY, HE'S BEEN HIDING OUT IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS, AFRAID TO COME OUT.

BUT WHEN A COUPLE OF GOBLIN NATION GOONS ABDUCTED TIM, I FORCED HIM TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE.

SEE CARNAGE #13. --ED

AND NOW WE'RE TOTALLY *OUT OF CONTROL.*

OKAY, I GOT HIM.

TAKE THE SHOT.

SPAK

BUT THAT'S NOT THE SCARY PART.

NOT FOR ME.

THAT DAM THAT'S BURSTING INSIDE OF ME? THAT *ANNIHILATING WAVE* OF RAZORS AND RAGE?

SHWOOSH

POLICE

IT'S NOT COMING FROM RASCAL.

IT NEVER WAS.

IT'S COMING FROM *ME.*

TIMMM...

WHAT IN THE *WORLD...?*

BAAAD MEN KEEP RRRASCAL AWAY FROM TIMM!

AAARRGGHH!

GET 'EM OFF ME!

BAD MENNN PAY!

RASCAL, STOP! THEY'RE NOT BAD MEN--THEY'RE JUST SCARED!

THWIPP!

THWIP!

"THWIP"?

OH GREAT. OH NO...

"THWIP" MEANS I'M IN A WHOLE *WORLD* OF TROUBLE.

NO! GIVE MEAT BAAACK!!!

...

HEY, MAN. ROUGH NIGHT?

SPIDER-MEEEAT!

AAAAH, CLOSE ENOUGH.

SO, HEY, YOU WANNA WALK ME THROUGH WHAT I'M SEEING HERE? 'CAUSE I GOTTA SAY, IT DOESN'T LOOK *GREAT.*

STARK IND

clk!

STARK INDUSTR

WHAT IS THAT?

HEY!

NEW YORK CITY SEWER.

GIVE THAT BACK!

STARK. FRIEND OF THE FAMILY, *HUH?*

I BET THAT CRINGEY TECH BRO GAVE YOU THIS PERSONALLY, AM I RIGHT?

BOSS IS TAKING *TOO LONG*, CANDRA. SOMETHIN'S NOT RIGHT.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST A STUPID PEN, SO GIVE IT *BACK!*

HA! WHOA, WHOA! EASY THERE, SHORT STUFF.

IF IT'S JUST A STUPID PEN, THEN WHY SO *SENSITIVE?*

YOU'RE RIGHT, TONY STARK DID GIVE IT TO ME. BUT HE WASN'T A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.

I GOT NO FAMILY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NO FAMILY"?

I GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE, OKAY?! SAINT ELIGIUS ON PEARL STREET.

MISTER STARK WOULD ***SWING*** BY SOMETIMES--FOR FUNDRAISERS AND SUCH.

THIS ONE YEAR, HE CAME DRESSED AS SANTA AND HANDED OUT PRESENTS.

NOBODY RECOGNIZED HIM EXCEPT ME, SO HE WINKED AT ME AND GAVE ME ***THIS PEN.***

BULL! YOU'RE A ***BILLIONAIRE'S*** KID, KID!

BOSS TOLD US!

CALL SISTER HERRERA AT SAINT ELIGIUS AND ASK HER, MAN. SHE WON'T REMEMBER ME ***FONDLY,*** BUT SHE'LL REMEMBER ME.

GO AHEAD, THEY'RE LISTED.

SHH! YOU ALL HEAR THAT?

IS IT THE BOSS? WE NEED TO GET THIS CLEARED UP.

SOMETHIN' FELT SKETCHY ABOUT THIS JOB FROM THE JUMP.

NAH, NAH. IT AIN'T HIM.

HOLEE--!!!

TTHHHHHPPP!!!

THIS GOBLIN FORMULA'S NO JOKE!

I CAUGHT IT!

DID YOU SEE? I CA--!

SSSHUNK! SSH-SHUNK! SSSHUNK!

DASH?!

YOU WOULD NOT *BELIEVE* HOW OFTEN THAT WORKS. SERIOUSLY.

YOU KNOW WHAT TASKMASTER USED TO DRILL INTO US BACK AT THE ACADEMY? HE'D REPEAT IT, LIKE A MANTRA...

..."SMALL WINS MAKE YOU SLOPPY."

NOW, I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALL KEEN TO FOLLOW YOUR FRIEND HERE INTO THE *GREAT BEYOND*, SO...

...WHY DON'T YOU GUYS LINE UP SINGLE FILE AND *CROSSBONES'LL* HAVE YOU ON YOUR WAY IN *TWO SHAKES OF A LAMB'S TAIL*, 'KAY?

Nnn! COME ON, MAN! SNAP OUT OF IT!

WHUMMMPP!

RRRAGGHHH!

RASCAL. RASCAL, WE CAN'T DO THIS. IT'S SPIDER-MAN.

HE'S OUR *FRIEND*, REMEMBER?

KRAKK!

THEY'LL ALL COME AFTER US IF WE DON'T GET IT TOGETHER. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

DO YOU WANT US TO BE *ALONE* AND *HATED?*

NNNOT ALOOOONE. FINND TIMMM...

EASY, DUDE. OKAY? EASY.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKIN' TO, BUT IF THEY'RE TELLING YOU I'M A THREAT, THEN THEY'RE LYI--

THEY'RE *MISTAKEN.*

LISTEN TO HIM, RASCAL! HE CAN HELP US!

BEEE QUIET NOWWW, NOORMIEEE...

WHO'S NORM--?!

KRAK!

UGGGHH!

KRA-BOOOOSSSH!

OH, RASCAL...

NOW YOU'VE DONE IT.

KSSSHHHHH!

UGH! I GOT *WET UNDIES*, MAN! *NOT COOL!*

GONNA GET ALL *SORE* AND *ITCHY* ON THE WAY BACK TO BROOKLYN...

GRRRAAAAAH!

GO 'WAY, SPIDER-MEAT!

;SIGH; KNEW I SHOULDA STAYED OUTTA THE CITY TODAY.

OKAY, PAL... YOU ASKED FOR IT.

FZZZZHT!

SPLSH! SPASH!

RASCAL, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...

...I'M SO SORRY IT'S COME TO THIS...

...BUT WE'VE GOTTA BE STOPPED.

FZZZ

WHO SENT YOU?!

NNN! A GENTLEMAN NEVER TELLS, SWEETHEART.

LET'S JUST SAY LOYALTY AIN'T ALWAYS REWARDED.

CHAKK!

NO! HE WOULDN'T...!

IS THIS GUY ONE OF YOUR *CREW* OR WHATEVER?!

THAT'S *CROSSBONES.* AND DOES HE LOOK LIKE ONE OF OUR CREW, KID?! HE'S A HIT MAN!

JUST GET BEHIND ME TILL THIS IS ALL OVER!

SWIKK!

SWIKK!

SWIKK!

THAP!

TSS! WATCH WHERE YOU THROW THOSE THINGS, IDIOT!

AAARGGHH!

THAP! THAP!

HSSSS!

HNN! LET'S EVEN UP THE ODDS A LITTLE HERE, SHALL WE?

GAKK! GIK!

W-WAIT, WHAT JUST...?

GULUKK!

SHLURK

FISHER!

WE CAME UP TOGETHER, YOU--!

KRAK

UKK!

COME ON, *QUICKLY!* WE GOTTA GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

B-BUT YOUR FRIENDS...

THEY'RE *DONE.* NOW SHUT UP AND MOVE.

OH, WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED, DARLIN'!

AKK!

CLK!

STARK INDUS

GETOFFGETOFF GETOFF!!!

SKLCH!

AAAAARRGH!

NNN! K-KILL YOU FOR THAT, YOU LITTLE WEASEL!

EEEEEEEE

MAYBE IN THE NEXT LIFE, DIRTBAG!

BOOM!

HONESTLY, THIS IS A LOW POINT.

IS HE...IS HE *DEAD?*

I KNOW *I* WILL BE IF I DON'T GET THIS CLOSED UP TOUT SUITE.

WHAT *WAS* THAT?

THAT WAS MY *BELOVED BOSS*--MY GOBLIN KING--TRYING TO KILL ME. AND YOU TOO, TIM.

"WHADDYA SAY WE GO RETURN THE FAVOR, HMM?"

SO, THE O.G. GREEN GOBLIN'S...YOUR GRANDPA?

HE'S THE GOLD GOBLIN NOW.

...

YEAH, BUT COME ON.

HELP ME OUT HERE, NORMIE. YOU'RE A KID... LIKE, A KID-KID.

WHY DID VENOM GIVE YOU A SYMBIOTE?

HE SAID HE NEEDED MY HELP--THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE HE COULD TRUST.

LOOK...MY FRIEND TIM WAS TAKEN BY THESE GOBLIN GOONS I TUSSLE WITH FROM TIME TO TIME.

I CAN'T RISK RASCAL GETTING OUT AGAIN, BUT I KNOW WHERE THEY MIGHT BE. WILL YOU HELP ME FIND HIM?

SURE, NORMIE. YOU GOTTA PROMISE ME YOU'LL LET ME HANDLE THIS THOUGH.

AND WHEN WE'RE DONE, WE'RE GONNA GO SEE SOMEONE SMART AND STRETCHY ABOUT GETTING THAT MONSTER OUT OF YOU.

DEAL?

DEAL.

TO BE CONTINUED!

RED GOBLIN

#8

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